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Today's Weather.

Portland, Dec. 23.—Western Oregon and Western Washington—Saturday rain or snow.

Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington—Rain.

UNITED ACTION NEEDED.

Having pointed out the plain duty of the people of Astoria on the question of Sunday observance, and quoted the law on the subject, it has performed a duty it owed to the public. Compulsory closing of certain lines of business would not be conducive to success. Moral suasion is a more potent factor in needed reforms. To educate the public up to a realizing sense of the importance and resulting benefits of Sunday observance is a duty enjoined upon newspapers who believe in a higher standard of morals. To carry these into effect is a duty the public owes to society. Withdrawal of patronage from those who disregard the law and the sentiment of a large majority of the people of Astoria, is one of the most effective agencies to secure the enforcement of the laws.

Throughout Astoria nearly all the mercantile houses will close next Monday, simply because the laws of Oregon provide that when a holiday falls on Sunday, the day following is to be observed. Sunday is just as much of a legal holiday, under the law, as Christmas, or the Monday following it. If the people were as anxious to observe Sunday as they are other legal holidays, the battle would be won without a perceptible struggle. Merchants, as a rule, do not consider it essential to their trade to keep open on Monday, and the same rule ought to apply to Sunday. Custom makes law, is an expression frequently heard. It's a poor rule that won't work both ways. If custom is the excuse for carrying on business on Sunday, why should it not mould public opinion to close on that day.

If the people once become accustomed to the innovation, not only will they be surprised at the beneficent results, but they will not care to go back to the old regime. Newspapers cannot accomplish the desired result, they must have the moral support of the community. Public officials do not do it because public sentiment seems to be against it. To change this sentiment can only be accomplished by united action. A large majority of the people of Astoria are no doubt in favor of the change, but they lack the moral courage to live up to their honest convictions.

FOREST RESERVES.

The American forest congress at its meeting in January next will devote one day's session to a consideration of the relation of the public forest lands to grazing. Only those who thoroughly understand conditions in the west can appreciate how important is the question of grazing in connection with the welfare of the forest. Grazing is the principal industry of nearly half of the United States. The arid region of the country includes about two-fifths of its entire area, from about the middle of the continent westerly nearly to the Pacific ocean, and the greater part of this region is natural grazing land, mainly open, but much of it, particularly in the more mountainous parts, forested or partly forested. The forage varies from the scanty vegetation of the desert to the thick turf of the mountain parks and the varied growth of herbage and young trees found in the interior of the forest. During the excessive heat of summer it is customary to drive the cattle and sheep up into the forest, where the air is cooler and the pasture better. This means that the young growth is trampled and browsed and the spongy forest soil packed or cut by hoofs, so that floods and serious soil erosion often follow, while the prospects of forest reproduction are greatly endangered. Hence it is often necessary to exclude both sheep and cattle, though the regulations are generally more rigid against sheep, which do the worst damage.

That the land best suited to grazing should be given over to it is self-evident. But neither the public domain or the forests should be overgrazed. Forests are essential to irrigation plans for reclaiming arid lands. The facts that sheep successfully graze upon

areas partly or wholly inaccessible to cattle has led sheep men into high mountains and about the headwaters of streams, where speedy and great damage can be done the protective influences of the forest. In addition sheep are generally herded or concentrated on small areas; thus their grazing has an intensive character peculiarly destructive. For these reasons and because of special local conditions, sheep are entirely excluded from some forest reserves, while in others their grazing is more stringently regulated than that of cattle.

Hitherto there has been continual conflict between the sheep and cattle men for grazing locations, and the limitation of the claims of each in the reserves has been one of the most embarrassing and difficult questions of forest control. Happily, through a recent conference at Denver, there has been the fullest and most amicable interchange of views in the history of the business. It is expected there will be less friction between them in the future than in the past.

That the bureau of forestry keenly appreciates the importance of the grazing question is shown by the instructions it gives its field force examining lands with a view to forming new reserves or revising the boundaries of existing reserves. Its agents must give definite and full reports on all the following queries: Demand upon the range; to what extent the prosperity of the local residents depends upon livestock; how many stock are now using the reserve, and how distributed; where owned; whether stock men own ranches or reside in the reserve; their home residence; to what extent, as a summer range, the proposed reserve limits outside range; whether it includes limbing grounds; conflicting interests, as between sheep and cattle, local and outside stock, etc., merits of the controversy; description of the character of the grazing lands; the extent of open parks and pastures in timber; to what extent grazing has injured the range or forest; the manner of handling stock; the size of herds or bands; areas, if any, from which stock should be excluded; division of pasture lands; recommendations for a plan of control, giving the number of stock and length of grazing season to be allowed, and any special regulations necessary; and the practicability of a division of range into individual ranges. It is only after exhaustive examination and full report that action is taken limiting grazing rights.

The forest reserve policy of the national government involves many important questions which are yet to be settled. The approaching American forest congress, to be held in Washington, D. C., will give the best opportunity that has ever been offered for their board discussion. This meeting has aroused wide interests among cattle and sheep men and their associations. A large representation from the grazing industry is expected at the congress, and far-reaching good is likely to result from its deliberations.

THE CALENDAR CRAZE.

It is calendar time now, and the small boy and his elders are besieging those offices which yearly issue reminders to the world that it is growing older. The issuing of calendars by banks, trust companies, insurance companies, and even by Astoria merchants has assumed mammoth proportions with the passage of years, and the amount of money spent on them amounts up into the millions. There is keen rivalry between the big insurance companies as to which shall issue the best calendar from an artistic point of view, and several hundred dollars are often spent on a design for them. Even the grocermen, dry goods merchants and the brewer's issue them. At this time the employes busy giving them out, to say nothing of the force employed in sending them out through the mails. The boys who go calendar hunting travel in bands, and penetrate every office. Rebuffs have no effect on them, and if one fails, all the rest try their luck. As fast as they can get calendars they shove them underneath their buttoned-up jackets or coats so as they go from office to office they gain in weight. A wise clerk who has just been told by such a boy that he has got no calendars, will lean over the counter and unbutton the swelling jacket.

Calendars are used as an advertising medium, and are said to be very effective and produce good results. No home is considered furnished now that does not have a half-dozen calendars or more. The calendar fad is growing in popularity in Astoria and are used by all the leading merchants.

Dowie says there isn't going to be any Santa Claus in Zion. Dowie is going to get all the presents there are around loose.

A Baltimore bank has declared a dividend of 100 per cent and doubled its capital stock. Let's see, didn't they have a fire in Baltimore?

Now there has come forward a man who lived within 20 miles of St. Louis all the time and never heard of the fair. Lucky man!

Lillian's Daughter Ill.

Denver, Dec. 23.—Dorothy Russell, daughter of Lillian Russell, is seriously ill at St. Luke's hospital in this city of bronchial pneumonia. She has been compelled to cancel her engagement at the Orpheum theater.

IS PLACED IN JAIL

Oppenheimer Winds up a Lengthy Session Last Night.

SHERIFF LINVILLE ARRESTS

Too Much Paper Outstanding Around Town Against the Young Drummer—Will Be Adjusted Soon, His Friends Say.

Ben Oppenheimer sat up last night through the courtesy of the county jailor, in the corridor, rather than sleep in a cell.

What Oppenheimer will do today is problematic. Paper is outstanding against him which has not been taken up, and the exact amount is unknown, and Oppenheimer has not been in a condition for some time that would enable him to furnish a succinct account of what has transpired.

Oppenheimer's relations are wealthy, and Oppenheimer, himself, has enjoyed at various times considerable prosperity. His friends, of whom there are many in Astoria and Portland, are of the opinion that his temporary incarceration will bring him to a realization of the folly of treading too long the primrose path, and there is no doubt that the financial operations that were the immediate cause of his arrest will be satisfactorily adjusted.

Oppenheimer is a man of prepossessing appearance, and has been a drummer for various hardware houses for a long time, though it is understood he has not been employed for several weeks, on account of the fascinations of the cocktail route.

THIEVES' PLIGHT.

County Jail Full of a Sad Lot of Petty Criminals.

Young Runyon, in jail for the theft of \$70 from a bartender's pocket, is rather a dismantled looking sneak thief. His crime was petty, his explanation is more so, and he hopes to be released on the charity of the very men he robbed. They may take pity on him because of his age, and if he ever gets another chance without securing the corrective virus dealt at Salem.

On account of the influx of criminal cases the circuit court yesterday gave the district attorney until December 30 to prepare informations in the cases of the state against Lowe, Stauch, Davis and others.

Stauch and Lowe broke jail, and the cases against them will now require considerable revision and the extension of time is to enable the district attorney to perfect his evidence.

Stauch, who is in a cell with an "Oregon boot" on his leg, said to an Astorian reporter yesterday: "Yes, I had a pretty jam hard time of it, but I am not glad to get back. I don't like this place. They treat us all right, but it's no fun being behind the lattice, and I don't like it."

Speaking of his experience while he was on the road to Westport on which he was eventually captured, Stauch said: "If that man Cook had been alone he would have got me all right Tuesday evening, but when I saw two horsemen coming behind me I ducked into the trees. It was a pretty fair stretch of road, but it was a little too dark for them to see me at the distance, and I stood there till they came up. I recognized Anderson in a second, because he was the jailor when I was in here before, but the other man I didn't know, and if he had been alone I would have talked to him.

"Oh, yes! I had a dozen chances to get hold of guns, but I didn't want one. I didn't figure on killing anybody; all I wanted was to get away, if I could. "There is no danger of me escaping now, I guess. They have us locked in pretty tight and this bracelet is too heavy (pointing to the boot) to carry over these roads."

When Tom Linville placed the boot on Stauch after he was returned to jail he remarked, with great solicitude: "Now, Fred, if you go skedaddling out of town again, please leave me this boot, for it belongs to the county."

The county still has its property.

Church Notices.

Christmas (Sunday) will be observed by the Baptists with a special service of song in the evening. All the regular services of the church will be observed except the evening preaching. Everybody is invited to attend.

Norwegian-Danish M. E. church, at Uppertown. Special Christmas service. Sunday sermon by the pastor at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Christmas festival for the children Monday evening at 7:30. Aug. Petersen, pastor.

Services at the First Lutheran on Christmas as follows: Morning, usual early matins. This service begins at 5:30 immediately following this service there will be the usual morning service, each service lasting about two hours. The subject for the sermons will be the "Birth of Christ. Mr. Olive

P. A. STOKES

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Not High-Priced Goods, for Gift Purposes Only, but Popular Novelties, in Popular Fabrics, at Popular Prices—to supply the wants of the every-day man who appreciates House Comfort. Let us show you the lines—you'll be willing to pay more than we ask.

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Week Commencing Monday, December 26th

KEITH STOCK COMPANY

A company of accomplished players appearing in a powerful repertoire of plays replete with special scenic embellishments.

Opening performance Monday, December 26,

"Slaves of Russia"

Followed on other nights by: "Brother Against Brother," "Capt. Fresh, U. S. A.," "Senator's Daughter," "Power of Truth" and "Light House Robbery."

PRICES: Reserved Seats, 35c.; Children in Gallery 15c., Adults 25c. Seat sale opens Saturday morning at 9 o'clock at Fisher Bros. Office.

Worst of All Experiences.

Can anything be worse than to feel that every minute will be your last? Such was the experience of Mrs. S. H. Newson, Decatur, Ala. "For three years" she writes, "I endured insufferable pain from indigestion, stomach and bowel trouble. Death seemed inevitable when doctors and all remedies failed. At length I was induced to try Electric Bitters and the result was marvelous. I improved at once and now I'm completely recovered. For Liver, Kidney, Stomach and Bowel troubles Electric Bitters is the only medicine. Only 50c. It's guaranteed by Chas. Rogers Druggist.

Next Time

You need a pair of Men's, Women's or Children's

SHOES

Honest, Durable Shoes

For less money than you have been paying try

Go to the New Style Restaurant for a square meal.

JUST ARRIVED!

large shipment of live Turkeys, Geese and Chickens, from Southern Oregon, at the

BOND STREET MARKET

the largest poultry house in Astoria. We have hired ten men expressly to dress poultry for the Christmas and New Year's trade. You can save money by buying your poultry from us. Phone 2183 Red.

A Large and Varied Assortment at Ekstrom's.

Here are a few articles which will make suitable and handsome Christmas presents for anyone. All popular and stylish, cheap in price, but high in quality. Read: Silver novelties in numerous different patterns, handsome cut glass pieces, sterling silverware, ebony goods in brushes, glasses and toilet sets, fancy umbrellas and canes, match boxes, tableware, fine chains, chaffing dishes, carving sets, special watches, diamonds, broches and a thousand other things. It will pay you to consult our prices before going elsewhere.

H. EKSTROM, Astoria, Ore.

Don't buy your hair brushes until you see my new stock. It will be here soon. Charles Rogers.

Today Zapp & Co. will sell you \$8 Solid Oak Morris chairs for \$5.95.

Schlitz's beer made Milwaukee famous, and is having the same effect on the Grotto. Nothing better on the market.

The Grotto will supply patrons with delicious Tom and Jerry every day. The superior quality of goods which has made the Grotto popular, will be supplied.